

**REMARKS**

A principal purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to save fees and to facilitate examination by removing multiply dependent claims, applicants reserving the right, however, to reintroduce claims to cancelled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,



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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

a/ A composition comprising (by weight): 55 to 99.5 parts of EVOH copolymer, 0.5 to 45 parts of polypropylene (A) and a compatibilizing agent (B) e.g. a polyethylene grafted with polyamide groups, the proportions of (A) and (B) being such that (A)/(B) ranges between 1 and 5 especially between 2 and 4; the ratio of the MFI of EVOH over the MFI of polypropylene is higher than 5 especially between 5 and 25, particularly between 8 and 15, MFI representing the melt flow index. Said composition is useful for making barrier films, in particular for oxygen, used in packaging.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT

A new abstract has been added, therefore no marked up version is necessary.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended as follows:

The subtitle on page 1, line 4, has been amended as follows:

~~-[Field of the Invention]~~ Field of the Invention.

The subtitle on page 1, line 16, has been amended as follows:

~~[The technical problem]~~ The Technical Problem.

The subtitle on page 2, line 23, has been amended as follows:

~~[Prior Art]~~ Background.

The subtitle on page 4, line 12, has been amended as follows:

~~[Brief description of the invention]~~ Summary of the Invention.

The subtitle on page 4, line 24 has been deleted.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A composition comprising (by weight):
  - 55 to 99.5 parts of an EVOH copolymer,
  - 0.5 to 45 parts of polypropylene (A) and of compatibilizer (B), the proportions of (A) and (B) being such that (A)/(B) is between 1 and 5,  
-----the ratio of the MFI of the EVOH to the MFI of the polypropylene being  
greater than 5, "MFI" MFI denoting the melt flow index measured in g/10 mn at 230°C/2.16 -----

kg.

2. (Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, in which the MFI of (A) is between 0.5 and 3 (~~in g/10 mm at 230°C/2.16 kg~~).

3. (Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the ratio of the MFI of the EVOH to the MFI of the polypropylene is between 5 and 25, ~~the MFIs being measured at 230°C under a load of 2.16 kg.~~

5. (Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the (A)/(B) weight ratio is between 2 and 4.

6. (Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, in which (B) is a polyethylene carrying grafted with polyamide grafts which results from the reaction of (i) a copolymer (B1) of ethylene and an unsaturated monomer X, which is grafted or copolymerized, with (ii) a polyamide (B2).

8. (Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, in which (B) is a polypropylene carrying grafted with polyamide grafts which results from the reaction of (i) a propylene homopolymer or copolymer (B3) comprising an unsaturated monomer X, which is grafted or copolymerized, with (ii) a polyamide (B2).

10. (Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6, in which (B2) is chosen from PA-6, PA-11, PA-12, the copolyamide containing nylon-6 units and nylon-12 units (PA-6/12) and the copolyamide based on caprolactam, hexamethylenediamine and adipic acid (PA-6/6,6).

11. (Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6, in which (B2) is a monoaminated oligomer of PA-6.

12. (Amended) ~~Films consisting of compositions as claimed in any one of the~~

~~preceding claims~~ A film comprising a composition according to claim 1.

13. (Amended) ~~Films~~ A film as claimed in claim 12, comprising at least one polypropylene layer.

14. (Amended) ~~Multilayer structures~~ A multilayer structure comprising a film as claimed in claim 12 ~~or 13~~ and packaging articles comprising these structures.

#### **IN THE CLAIMS**

The claims have been amended as follows: